EXHIBIT 15 (Part 1)

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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 076376.0411

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:		)		
Toyonori SASAKI		)	Examiner	To Be Assigned
Application No.:	To Be Assigned	)	Group Art Unit	To Be Assigned
Filed:	September 29, 2006	)	Confirmation No.	To Be Assigned
For: INK CARTRIDGES		)		

PRE-EXAMINATION SEARCH DOCUMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

This Pre-Examination Search Document is provided in support of the Petition for Accelerated Examination filed herewith.

A pre-examination search was conducted involving U.S. patents and patent application publications, foreign patent documents and non-patent literature as indicated below. The results of the search are provided on an Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith.

A. Pre-examination Search

1. US Field of Search:

Classes/Subclasses Searched:

73/305, 307, 309, 317, 319, 322.5;

116/227, 228, 229;

250/573, 575;

340/603, 612, 618, 623, 625;

347/19, 85, 86, 108

401/192, 194;

Date Conducted: June 26, 2006 –July 11, 2006

2. Foreign Field of Search:

IPCs Searched:

B29C041/00;

B41J002/175;

B41J002/195;

B41J024/34;

B41J029/13;

B41J029/393;

B41J032/00;

B43L025/00;

Date Conducted: August 24, 2006 – September 13, 2006

3. Database Searches:

a. Database Service: USPTO EAST

Files Searched:

US Patent Document Databases: US-PGPUB, USPAT

Foreign Patent Document Databases: EPO, JPO, DERWENT

Search Logic:

L1 (ink and (cartridge or housing or casing or tank or enclosure or cover$3))

L2 ((ink and (cartridge or housing or casing or tank or enclosure or cover$3)) and (level$3 or indicat$4 or remain$4 or residual or detect$4)

L3 ((ink and (cartridge or housing or casing or tank or enclosure or cover$3)) and (translucent or transparent or clear)

L4 ((ink and (cartridge or housing or casing or tank or enclosure or cover$3)) and (mold$3)

L5 ((ink and (cartridge or housing or casing or tank or enclosure or cover$3)) and (air adj (inlet or outlet or supply))

L6 (ink and (cartridge or housing or casing or tank or enclosure or cover$3)) and (float$3 or buoy$4)

L7 (ink and (cartridge or housing or casing or tank or enclosure or cover$3)) and (communicat$4 or path or perpendicular or chamber$2)

L8 (ink and (cartridge or housing or casing or tank or enclosure or cover$3)) and (film or thick$5)

L8 (ink and (cartridge or housing or casing or tank or enclosure or cover$3)) and (groov$4 or recess or concave$3 slot$3)

L9 (ink and (cartridge or housing or casing or tank or enclosure or cover$3)) and (stub$3 or protru$5 or ridge or rough$4 or bend$3 or bent or rib$4)

Date Conducted: June 26, 2006 – September 13, 2006

b. Database Services: JPO NCIPI

Files Searched:

Foreign Patent Document Databases: JPO

Japanese Domestic Classification F-Terms Searched:

2C056(KC01, KC04, KC05, KC06, KC07, KC09, KC13, KC15, KC16, KC17, KC18, KC20, KC21, KC22, KC23, KC25, KC27, KC30);

2C056(KD01, KD02, KD03, KD04, KD06, KD08 and KD10);

Date Conducted: August 24, 2006 – September 13, 2006

c. Database Services: Korean Patent Office (KIPO) Kipris

Files Searched

Foreign Patent Document Database: KIPO

Search Logic:

L1 (ink * (cartridge + housing + casing + tank + enclosure + cover or covering))

L2 (ink * (cartridge + housing + casing + tank + enclosure + cover)) * (mold + molded)

L3 (ink * (cartridge + housing + casing + tank + enclosure + cover)) * (chamber + translucent + transparent + clear)

L4 (ink * (cartridge + housing + casing + tank + enclosure + cover)) * (air*inlet)

L5 (ink * (cartridge + housing + casing + tank + enclosure + cover)) * (indicating + indicator + indication + level + remain + remaining + residual)

Date Conducted: August 24, 2006 – September 13, 2006

d. Database Service: Dialog

Files Searched:

Inspec, NTIS, Ei Compendex, Gale Group PROMT, Weldasearch, Dissertation Abstracts Online, Inside Conferences, JICST-Eplus, FLUIDEX, Wilson Applied Science & Technology Abstracts, PASCAL, PIRA, Wilson Business Abstracts, Asia-Pacific Directory

Search Logic:

L1 (ink (3n) (cartridge or case or casing or tank or housing or enclosure or cover)

Date Conducted: August 24, 2006 – September 13, 2006.

e. Database Service: Google

File Searched:

Google Scholar (Non Patent Literature)

Search Logic:

L1 ink (cartridge OR casing OR case OR tank OR housing OR cover OR enclosure) (transparent OR transparent);

L2 ink (cartridge OR casing OR case OR tank OR housing OR cover OR enclosure) (residual OR level OR indicating);

Date Conducted: August 24, 2006 – September 13, 2006

f. Database Services : SCIRUS

File Searched:

Journal Sources, Websites (Non Patent Literature)

Search Logic :

L1 ink cartridge translucent;

L2 ink cartridge mold;

L3 ink cartridge residual;

L4 ink cartridge level indication;

L5 ink cartridge level monitoring;

Conducted: August 24, 2006 – September 13, 2006

g. Database Services: GWU ALADIN

File Searched:

Academic Search Premier

Search Logic:

L1 ink cartridge molding;

L2 ink cartridge level;

L3 ink cartridge residual;

L4 ink cartridge monitoring;

Conducted: August 24, 2006 – September 13, 2006

B. Search Directed to the Invention

The pre-examination search was directed to the claimed invention, encompassing all the features of the claims and giving the claims their broadest reasonable interpretation.

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C. Search Directed to the Disclosure

No disclosed features that are unclaimed at this time are currently seen as features that may be claimed later.

D. Search Report from a Foreign Patent Office

No search report from a foreign patent office is provided here as the pre-examination search.

E. Statement of Good Faith

All statements above in support of the petition to make special are based on a good faith belief that the search was conducted in compliance with the requirements of this rule.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Dated: September 29, 2006

By: ______________________
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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 076376.0411

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:		)		
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Toyonori SASAKI		)	Examiner	To Be Assigned
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ACCELERATED EXAMINATION SUPPORT DOCUMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
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Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

This accelerated examination support document is provided in support of the petition for accelerated examination filed herewith.

Identification of the Limitations of the Claims Disclosed by the Cited References begins on page 2 of this paper.

Detailed Explanation of Patentability begins on Page 14 of this paper.

Statement of Utility begins on Page 15 of this paper.

Showing of Support of Each Claim Limitation begins on page 16 of this paper.

Conclusion begins on page 21 of this paper.

Identification of the Limitations of the Claims Disclosed by the Cited References:

1. Japanese Patent Publication No. JP-8281966

a. Independent Claim 1

Japanese Patent Publication No. JP-8281966 ("JP '966") describes an ink cartridge 21 (Figures 2 and 3) including a first wall (not numbered, but shown in Figure 2), and a second wall (not numbered, but shown in Figures 2 and 3) which is perpendicular to the first wall and is connected to the first wall. Ink cartridge 21 also includes a translucent portion 31 (Figures 2 and 3) which extends from an end of the second wall of ink cartridge, and translucent portion 31 has an inner space defined therein. Moreover, ink cartridge 22 includes an ink chamber 24-25 (Figure 2), and a movable member (not numbered, but shown in Figures 2 and 3) including a float 34 and a light blocking portion 33. The movable member is configured to selectively be positioned within and outside the inner space of translucent portion 31 based on the amount of ink within ink chamber 24-25, and float 34 and light blocking portion 33 move together and in the same direction.

Independent claim 1 is not anticipated by JP '966 at least because JP '966 does not disclose that a sliding member and a float portion move independent of each other.

b. Dependent Claim 2

JP '966 states that float 34 and light blocking portion 33 move together and in the same direction.

Dependent claim 2 is not anticipated by JP '966 at least because JP '966 does not disclose that the sliding member and the float portion move substantially perpendicular with respect to each other.

c. Dependent Claim 3

JP '966 states that float 34 and light blocking portion 33 move together and in the same direction.

Dependent claim 3 is not anticipated by JP '966 at least because JP '966 does not disclose that the sliding member moves in a first direction and the float portion moves in a second direction which is slanted with respect to the first direction.

d. Dependent Claim 4

JP '966 states that an ink supply portion 29 (Figure 2) extends from an end of the first wall of ink cartridge 21, and translucent portion 31 extends from an end of the second wall of ink cartridge 21.

Dependent claim 4 is not anticipated by JP '966 at least because JP '966 does not disclose that the translucent portion and the ink supply portion are positioned on the same wall of the ink cartridge.

e. Dependent Claims 6 and 7

Dependent claims 6 and 7 are not anticipated by JP '966 at least because JP '966 does not disclose an extender portion including a guide path.

f. Independent Claim 8

JP '966 describes an ink cartridge 21 (Figures 2 and 3) including a first wall (not numbered, but shown in Figure 2), and a second wall (not numbered, but shown in Figures 2 and 3) which is perpendicular to the first wall and is connected to the first wall. Ink cartridge 21 also includes a translucent portion 31 (Figures 2 and 3) which extends from an end of the second wall of ink cartridge, and translucent portion 31 has an inner space defined therein. Moreover, ink cartridge 22 includes an ink chamber 24-25 (Figure 2), and a movable member (not numbered, but shown in Figures 2 and 3) including a float 34 and a light blocking portion 33. The movable member is configured to selectively be positioned within and outside the inner space of translucent portion 31 based on the amount of ink within ink chamber 24-25, and float 34 and light blocking portion 33 move together and in the same direction.

Independent claim 8 is not anticipated by JP '966 at least because JP '966 does not disclose that a sliding member and a float portion move substantially perpendicular with respect to each other.

g. Independent Claim 9

JP '966 describes an ink cartridge 21 (Figures 2 and 3) including a first wall (not numbered, but shown in Figure 2), and a second wall (not numbered, but shown in Figures 2 and 3) which is perpendicular to the first wall and is connected to the first wall. Ink cartridge 21 also includes a translucent portion 31 (Figures 2 and 3) which extends from an end of the second wall of ink cartridge, and translucent portion 31 has an inner space defined therein. Moreover, ink cartridge 22 includes an ink chamber 24-25 (Figure 2), and a movable member (not numbered, but shown in Figures 2 and 3) including a float 34 and a light blocking portion 33. The movable member is configured to selectively be positioned within and outside the inner space of translucent portion 31 based on the amount of ink within ink chamber 24-25, and float 34 and light blocking portion 33 move together and in the same direction.

Independent claim 9 is not anticipated by JP '966 at least because JP '966 does not disclose that a distance between a signal blocking end of a sliding member and a float portion changes when the signal blocking end of the sliding member and the float portion move in response to a change in the amount of ink within the ink chamber.

h. Dependent Claim 10

JP '966 states that float 34 and light blocking portion 33 move together and in the same direction.

Dependent claim 10 is not anticipated by JP '966 at least because JP '966 does not disclose that a distance between a non-signal blocking end of the sliding member and the float portion changes when the non-signal blocking end of the sliding member and the float portion move in response to a change in the amount of ink within the ink chamber.

In view of the foregoing remarks, claims 1-4 and 6-10 are not anticipated by JP '966 because JP '966 does not disclose each and every limitation of these claims, and claim 5 is not anticipated by JP '966 because claim 5 depends from independent claim 1.

2. Patent Publication No. US 2005/0068389A1 to Katayama et al.

a. Independent Claim 1

Patent Publication No. US 2005/0068389A1 to Katayama et al. ("Katayama") describes an ink cartridge 103 (Figures 12 and 14) including a first wall (not numbered, but shown in Figure 14), a second wall (not numbered, but shown in Figure 14) which is perpendicular to the first wall and is connected to the first wall, and a translucent portion 134 (Figures 12 and 14) which extends from the second wall of ink cartridge 103. Translucent portion 134 has an inner space defined therein. Ink cartridge 103 also includes an ink chamber 131, and a movable member 123 (Figure 14) which includes a float portion 161 and a signal blocking portion 160. Signal blocking portion 160 is disposed within and configured to move within the inner space of translucent portion 134 based on the amount of ink within ink chamber 131. Specifically, as the ink level within ink chamber 131 is lowered and moves in a first direction, float portion 161 moves substantially in the first direction, and signal blocking portion moves substantially in a second direction opposite the first direction.

Independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Katayama at least because Katayama does not disclose that a sliding member and a float portion move independent of each other.

b. Dependent Claim 2

Katayama states that float portion 161 and signal blocking portion 160 move together and in substantially opposite directions with respect to each other.

Dependent claim 2 is not anticipated by Katayama at least because Katayama does not disclose that the sliding member and the float portion move substantially perpendicular with respect to each other.

c. Dependent Claim 3

Katayama states that float portion 161 and signal blocking portion 160 move together and in substantially opposite directions with respect to each other.

Dependent claim 3 is not anticipated by Katayama at least because does Katayama not disclose that the sliding member moves in a first direction and the float portion moves in a second direction which is slanted with respect to the first direction.

d. Dependent Claim 4

Katayama states that an ink supply portion 121 (Figure 14) extends from an end of the first wall of ink cartridge 103, and translucent portion 134 extends from the second wall of ink cartridge 103.

Dependent claim 4 is not anticipated by Katayama at least because Katayama does not disclose that the translucent portion and the ink supply portion are positioned on the same wall of the ink cartridge.

e. Dependent Claims 6 and 7

Dependent claims 6 and 7 are not anticipated by Katayama at least because Katayama does not disclose an extender portion including a guide path.

f. Independent Claim 8

Katayama describes an ink cartridge 103 (Figures 12 and 14) including a first wall (not numbered, but shown in Figure 14), a second wall (not numbered, but shown in Figure 14) which is perpendicular to the first wall and is connected to the first wall, and a translucent portion 134 (Figures 12 and 14) which extends from the second wall of ink cartridge 103. Translucent portion 134 has an inner space defined therein. Ink cartridge 103 also includes an ink chamber 131, and a movable member 123 (Figure 14) which includes a float portion 161 and a signal blocking portion 160. Signal blocking portion 160 is disposed within and configured to move within the inner space of translucent portion 134 based on the amount of ink within ink chamber 131. Specifically, as the ink level within ink chamber 131 is lowered and moves in a first direction, float portion 161 moves substantially in the first direction, and signal blocking portion moves substantially in a second direction opposite the first direction.

Independent claim 8 is not anticipated by Katayama at least because Katayama does not disclose that a sliding member and a float portion move substantially perpendicular with respect to each other.

g. Independent Claim 9

Katayama describes an ink cartridge 103 (Figures 12 and 14) including a first wall (not numbered, but shown in Figure 14), a second wall (not numbered, but shown in Figure 14) which is perpendicular to the first wall and is connected to the first wall, and a translucent portion 134 (Figures 12 and 14) which extends from the second wall of ink cartridge 103. Translucent portion 134 has an inner space defined therein. Ink cartridge 103 also includes an ink chamber 131, and a movable member 123 (Figure 14) which includes a float portion 161 and a signal blocking portion 160. Signal blocking portion 160 is disposed within and configured to move within the inner space of translucent portion 134 based on the amount of ink within ink chamber 131. Specifically, as the ink level within ink chamber 131 is lowered and moves in a first direction, float portion 161 moves substantially in the first direction, and signal blocking portion moves substantially in a second direction opposite the first direction.

Independent claim 9 is not anticipated by Katayama at least because Katayama does not disclose that a distance between a signal blocking end of a sliding member and a float portion changes when the signal blocking end of the sliding member and the float portion move in response to a change in the amount of ink within the ink chamber.

h. Dependent Claim 10

Katayama states that float portion 161 and signal blocking portion 160 move together and in substantially opposite directions with respect to each other.

Dependent claim 10 is not anticipated by Katayama at least because Katayama does not disclose that a distance between a non-signal blocking end of the sliding member and the float portion changes when the non-signal blocking end of the sliding member and the float portion move in response to a change in the amount of ink within the ink chamber.

In view of the foregoing remarks, claims 1-4 and 6-10 are not anticipated by Katayama because Katayama does not disclose each and every limitation of these claims, and claim 5 is not anticipated by Katayama because claim 5 depends from independent claim 1.

3. Patent No. US 6,899,418 B2 to Sasaki et al.

a. Independent Claim 1

Patent No. US 6,899,418 B2 to Sasaki et al. ("Sasaki") describes an ink cartridge 200 (Figure 14) including an exterior wall 234 (Figure 18), an interior wall (not numbered, but shown in Figure 18) which is parallel to exterior wall 234, and a translucent portion 372 (Figure 18) which extends from the interior wall. Translucent portion 372 has an inner space defined therein, and ink cartridge 200 also includes an ink chamber 310 (Figure 15). Ink cartridge 200 also includes a movable member 360 (Figure 16) which includes a signal blocking portion 367 (Figure 16) formed at a first end of movable member 360, and a pivot 365 (Figure 16) formed at a second end of movable member 360. Signal blocking portion 367 is disposed within and configured to move within the inner space of translucent portion 372 based on the amount of ink within ink chamber, and an end portion of movable member 360 is configured to move in substantially the opposite direction of signal blocking portion 367.

Independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Sasaki at least because Sasaki does not disclose that a sliding member and a float portion move independent of each other.

b. Dependent Claim 2

Sasaki states that signal blocking portion 367 and the end of movable member 360 move together and in substantially opposite directions with respect to each other.

Dependent claim 2 is not anticipated by Sasaki at least because Sasaki does not disclose that the sliding member and the float portion move substantially perpendicular with respect to each other.

c. Dependent Claim 3

Sasaki states that signal blocking portion 367 and the end of movable member 360 move together and in substantially opposite directions with respect to each other.

Dependent claim 3 is not anticipated by Sasaki at least because does Sasaki not disclose that the sliding member moves in a first direction and the float portion moves in a second direction which is slanted with respect to the first direction.

d. Dependent Claim 4

Sasaki states that an ink supply portion 260 (Figure 15) extends from exterior wall 234 in a predetermined direction, and translucent portion 134 extends from the interior wall of ink cartridge 200 in the predetermined direction.

Dependent claim 4 is not anticipated by Sasaki at least because Sasaki does not disclose that the translucent portion and the ink supply portion are positioned on the same wall of the ink cartridge.

e. Dependent Claims 6 and 7

Dependent claims 6 and 7 are not anticipated by Sasaki at least because Sasaki does not disclose an extender portion including a guide path.

f. Independent Claim 8

Sasaki describes an ink cartridge 200 (Figure 14) including an exterior wall 234 (Figure 18), an interior wall (not numbered, but shown in Figure 18) which is parallel to exterior wall 234, and a translucent portion 372 (Figure 18) which extends from the interior wall. Translucent portion 372 has an inner space defined therein, and ink cartridge 200 also includes an ink chamber 310 (Figure 15). Ink cartridge 200 also includes a movable member 360 (Figure 16) which includes a signal blocking portion 367 (Figure 16) formed at a first end of movable member 360, and a pivot 365 (Figure 16) formed at a second end of movable member 360. Signal blocking portion 367 is disposed within and configured to move within the inner space of translucent portion 372 based on the amount of ink within ink chamber, and an end portion of movable member 360 is configured to move in substantially the opposite direction of signal blocking portion 367.

Independent claim 8 is not anticipated by Sasaki at least because Sasaki does not disclose that a sliding member and a float portion move substantially perpendicular with respect to each other.

g. Independent Claim 9

Sasaki describes an ink cartridge 200 (Figure 14) including an exterior wall 234 (Figure 18), an interior wall (not numbered, but shown in Figure 18) which is parallel to exterior wall 234, and a translucent portion 372 (Figure 18) which extends from the interior wall. Translucent portion 372 has an inner space defined therein, and ink cartridge 200 also includes an ink chamber 310 (Figure 15). Ink cartridge 200 also includes a movable member 360 (Figure 16) which includes a signal blocking portion 367 (Figure 16) formed at a first end of movable member 360, and a pivot 365 (Figure 16) formed at a second end of movable member 360. Signal blocking portion 367 is disposed within and configured to move within the inner space of translucent portion 372 based on the amount of ink within ink chamber, and an end portion of movable member 360 is configured to move in substantially the opposite direction of signal blocking portion 367.

Independent claim 9 is not anticipated by Sasaki at least because Sasaki does not disclose that a distance between a signal blocking end of a sliding member and a float portion changes when the signal blocking end of the sliding member and the float portion move in response to a change in the amount of ink within the ink chamber.

h. Dependent Claim 10

Sasaki states that signal blocking portion 367 and the end of movable member 360 move together and in substantially opposite directions with respect to each other.

Dependent claim 10 is not anticipated by Sasaki at least because Sasaki does not disclose that a distance between a non-signal blocking end of the sliding member and the float portion changes when the non-signal blocking end of the sliding member and the float portion move in response to a change in the amount of ink within the ink chamber.

In view of the foregoing remarks, claims 1-4 and 6-10 are not anticipated by Sasaki because Sasaki does not disclose each and every limitation of these claims, and claim 5 is not anticipated by Sasaki because claim 5 depends from independent claim 1.

Detailed Explanation of Patentability:

1. 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicants respectfully submit that for at least the reasons set forth above, none of JP '966, Katayama, and Sasaki anticipates any of claims 1-10 of the above-captioned patent application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)-(g) at least because none of these references discloses each and every limitation of any of claims 1-10. MPEP 2131.

2. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, at least three criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to those of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the primary reference to achieve the claimed invention. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the prior art references must disclose all the claim limitations. MPEP 2143. Applicants respectfully submit that none of JP '966, Katayama, and Sasaki, either standing alone or in combination, renders claims 1-10 of the above-captioned patent application obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) at least because none of these references discloses or suggests that the sliding member and the float portion move independent of each other, or that the distance between the signal blocking end of the sliding member and the float portion changes when the signal blocking end of the sliding member and the float portion move in response to a change in the amount of ink within the ink chamber.

Statement of Utility:

The present invention, as set forth in independent claims 1, 8, and 9, may be used to deliver ink to a recording medium, such as paper.

Showing of Support of Each Claim Limitation:

CLAIM LIMITATION	SUPPORT FOR CLAIM LIMITATION
1. An ink cartridge, comprising: an ink chamber comprising a wall having a first end and a second end opposite the first end;	At least Paragraph 0014.
a translucent portion positioned at the wall, wherein the translucent portion is configured to be in fluid communication with the ink chamber, and the translucent portion has an inner space formed therein; and	At least Paragraph 0018; and Figure 2.
a movable member comprising: a sliding member comprising a signal blocking portion, wherein the signal blocking portion is configured to move in a first direction from a first position within the inner space of the translucent portion to a second position based on the amount of ink within the ink chamber; and	At least Paragraphs 0005, 0022, 0023, and 0024; and Figure 3b.
a float portion operationally coupled to the sliding member, wherein the float portion is disposed within the ink chamber and is configured to move independent of the sliding member in a second direction from a third position to a fourth position based on the amount of ink within the ink chamber.	At least Paragraphs 0005, 0021, 0026, and 0027; and Figures 2 and 3a.
2. The ink cartridge of claim 1, wherein the second direction is substantially perpendicular to the first direction.	At least Paragraph 0027.

3. The ink cartridge of claim 1, wherein the second direction is slanted with respect to the first direction.	At least Paragraph 0041 and Figure 6.
4. The ink cartridge of claim 1, further comprising an ink supply portion having an opening formed therethrough, wherein the ink supply portion is positioned at the wall adjacent to the second end of the wall, and the translucent portion is positioned between the first end of the wall and the ink supply portion.	At least Paragraphs 0014 and 0018; and Figure 1.
5. The ink cartridge of claim 1, wherein the second position is outside of the inner space of the translucent portion.	At least Paragraph 0027.
6. The ink cartridge of claim 1, wherein the movable member further comprises an extender portion coupled to each of the sliding member and the float portion, such that the float portion is operationally coupled to the sliding member via the extender portion, wherein the extender portion has a guide path formed therethrough, and the sliding member further comprises a pin member which couples the sliding portion to the extender portion via the guide path.	At least Paragraphs 0019, 0020, and 0022; and Figure 2.
7. The ink cartridge of claim 6, wherein the guide path comprises a first portion which extends in the second direction, and a second portion which is slanted with respect to the first portion.	At least Figures 2 and 3a.

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8. An ink cartridge, comprising: an ink chamber comprising a wall having a first end and a second end opposite the first end;	At least Paragraph 0014.
a translucent portion positioned at the wall, wherein the translucent portion is configured to be in fluid communication with the ink chamber, and the translucent portion has an inner space formed therein; and	At least Paragraph 0018; and Figure 2.
a movable member comprising: a sliding member comprising a signal blocking portion, wherein the signal blocking portion is configured to move in a first direction from a first position within the inner space of the translucent portion to a second position based on the amount of ink within the ink chamber; and	At least Paragraphs 0005, 0022, 0023, and 0024; and Figure 3b.
a float portion operationally coupled to the sliding member, wherein the float portion is disposed within the ink chamber and is configured to move in a second direction from a third position to a fourth position based on the amount of ink within the ink chamber, and the second direction is substantially perpendicular to the first direction.	At least Paragraphs 0005, 0021, 0026, and 0027; and Figures 2 and 3a.
9. An ink cartridge, comprising: an ink chamber comprising a wall having a first end and a second end opposite the first end;	At least Paragraph 0014.

a translucent portion positioned at the wall, wherein the translucent portion is configured to be in fluid communication with the ink chamber, and the translucent portion has an inner space formed therein; and	At least Paragraph 0018; and Figure 2.
a movable member comprising:	At least Paragraphs 0038, 0039, and 0041; and Figure 6.
a sliding member comprising a signal blocking end and a non-signal blocking end opposite the signal blocking end, wherein the signal blocking end is configured to move in a first direction from a first position within the inner space of the translucent portion to a second position based on the amount of ink within the ink chamber; and	
a float portion operationally coupled to the sliding member, wherein the float portion is disposed within the ink chamber and is configured to move in a second direction from a third position to a fourth position based on the amount of ink within the ink chamber, wherein a first distance between the float portion and the signal blocking end when the float portion is in the third position is greater than a second distance between the float portion and the signal blocking end when the float portion is in the fourth position.	At least Paragraphs 0036 and 0041; and Figure 6.

10. The ink cartridge of claim 9, wherein a third distance between the float portion and the non-signal blocking end when the float portion is in the third position is less than a fourth distance between the float portion and the non-signal blocking end when the float portion is in the fourth position.	At least Paragraph 0041; and Figure 6.

Thus, claims 1-10 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶1.

Conclusion:

In view of this Accelerated Support Document, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner grant the Petition for Accelerated Examination in the above-captioned patent application. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the above-captioned patent application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that the Examiner allow the claims of the above-captioned patent application to issue in a U.S. patent.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Dated: September 29, 2006

By: ______________________
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PTO/SB/08a (08-03)
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)		
	Application Number	
	Filing Date	2006-09-29
	First Named Inventor	Toyonori SASAKI
	Art Unit	
	Examiner Name	
	Attorney Docket Number	076376.0411

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (**Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)**		
	Application Number	
	Filing Date	2006-09-29
	First Named Inventor	Toyonori SASAKI
	Art Unit	
	Examiner Name	
	Attorney Docket Number	076376.0411

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☐ See attached certification statement.

☐ Fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17 (p) has been submitted herewith.

☑ None

SIGNATURE

A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with CFR 1.33, 10.18. Please see CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.

Signature	/Timothy J. Churna/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2006-09-29
Name/Print	Timothy J. Churna	Registration Number	48340

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CLAIMS:

What is Claimed is:

1. An ink cartridge, comprising:

an ink chamber comprising a wall having a first end and a second end opposite the first end;

a translucent portion positioned at the wall, wherein the translucent portion is configured to be in fluid communication with the ink chamber, and the translucent portion has an inner space formed therein; and

a movable member comprising:

a sliding member comprising a signal blocking portion, wherein the signal blocking portion is configured to move in a first direction from a first position within the inner space of the translucent portion to a second position based on the amount of ink within the ink chamber; and

a float portion operationally coupled to the sliding member, wherein the float portion is disposed within the ink chamber and is configured to move independent of the sliding member in a second direction from a third position to a fourth position based on the amount of ink within the ink chamber.

2. The ink cartridge of claim 1, wherein the second direction is substantially perpendicular to the first direction.

3. The ink cartridge of claim 1, wherein the second direction is slanted with respect to the first direction.

4. The ink cartridge of claim 1, further comprising an ink supply portion having an opening formed therethrough, wherein the ink supply portion is positioned at the wall adjacent to the second end of the wall, and the translucent portion is positioned between the first end of the wall and the ink supply portion.

5. The ink cartridge of claim 1, wherein the second position is outside of the inner space of the translucent portion.

6. The ink cartridge of claim 1, wherein the movable member further comprises an extender portion coupled to each of the sliding member and the float portion, such that the float portion is operationally coupled to the sliding member via the extender portion, wherein the extender portion has a guide path formed therethrough, and the sliding member further comprises a pin member which couples the sliding portion to the extender portion via the guide path.

7. The ink cartridge of claim 6, wherein the guide path comprises a first portion which extends in the second direction, and a second portion which is slanted with respect to the first portion.

8. An ink cartridge, comprising:

an ink chamber comprising a wall having a first end and a second end opposite the first end;

a translucent portion positioned at the wall, wherein the translucent portion is configured to be in fluid communication with the ink chamber, and the translucent portion has an inner space formed therein; and

a movable member comprising:

a sliding member comprising a signal blocking portion, wherein the signal blocking portion is configured to move in a first direction from a first position within the inner space of the translucent portion to a second position based on the amount of ink within the ink chamber; and

a float portion operationally coupled to the sliding member, wherein the float portion is disposed within the ink chamber and is configured to move in a second direction from a third position to a fourth position based on the amount of ink within the ink chamber, and the second direction is substantially perpendicular to the first direction.

9. An ink cartridge, comprising:

an ink chamber comprising a wall having a first end and a second end opposite the first end;

a translucent portion positioned at the wall, wherein the translucent portion is configured to be in fluid communication with the ink chamber, and the translucent portion has an inner space formed therein; and

a movable member comprising:

a sliding member comprising a signal blocking end and a non-signal blocking end opposite the signal blocking end, wherein the signal blocking end is configured to move in a first direction from a first position within the inner space of the translucent portion to a second position based on the amount of ink within the ink chamber; and a float portion operationally coupled to the sliding member, wherein the float portion is disposed within the ink chamber and is configured to move in a second direction from a third position to a fourth position based on the amount of ink within the ink chamber, wherein a first distance between the float portion and the signal blocking end when the float portion is in the third position is greater than a second distance between the float portion and the signal blocking end when the float portion is in the fourth position.

10. The ink cartridge of claim 9, wherein a third distance between the float portion and the non-signal blocking end when the float portion is in the third position is less than a fourth distance between the float portion and the non-signal blocking end when the float portion is in the fourth position.